



# **Alabama Public Service Commission**

**AREA CODE 256  
RELIEF PLANNING**



## **Background**

- **The North American Numbering Plan (NANP) governs the management of telephone numbers for the Public Switched Telephone Networks in North America (Canada, USA, Caribbean, and territories) within the international country code prefix '+1'**



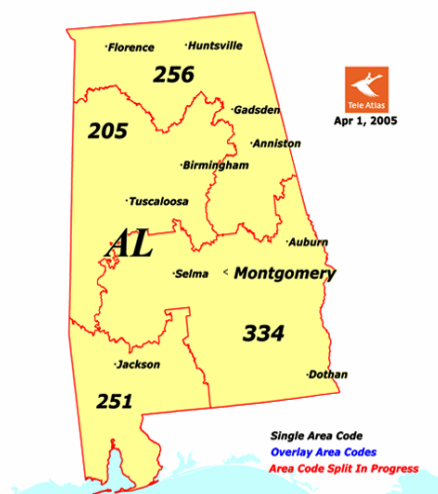
## Background

- The FCC designated NeuStar as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA).
- NANPA:
  - ...administers numbering resources according to regulatory directives and consensus industry guidelines.
  - Advises regulators and the industry about potential exhaust of the resources and assists the telecommunications industry in planning for the relief of area codes nearing exhaust.



## Background

- Alabama's existing area codes





## Area Code 256 Exhaust

- The available NXX's (three-digit prefixes) in the 256 area code are projected to exhaust by the First quarter of 2011.
  - This forecasted exhaust date is subject to change.
- It requires up to 15 months preparation prior to new code implementation. Therefore, the selection on the method to be utilized for area code relief must be made well in advance of the projected exhaust date.



## Alabama Counties Affected

- At least a portion of the following Alabama counties are associated with area code 256:
  - Blount\*, Clay, Coosa, Calhoun, Chambers\*, Cherokee, Cleburne, Colbert, Cullman, Dekalb, Elmore\*, Etowah, Franklin\*, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lee\*, Limestone, Madison, Marion\*, Marshall, Morgan, Randolph, St. Clair\*, Talladega\*, Tallapoosa, and Winston\*.

\* Denotes that the county is not exclusively associated with area code 256 (county associated with more than one area code)



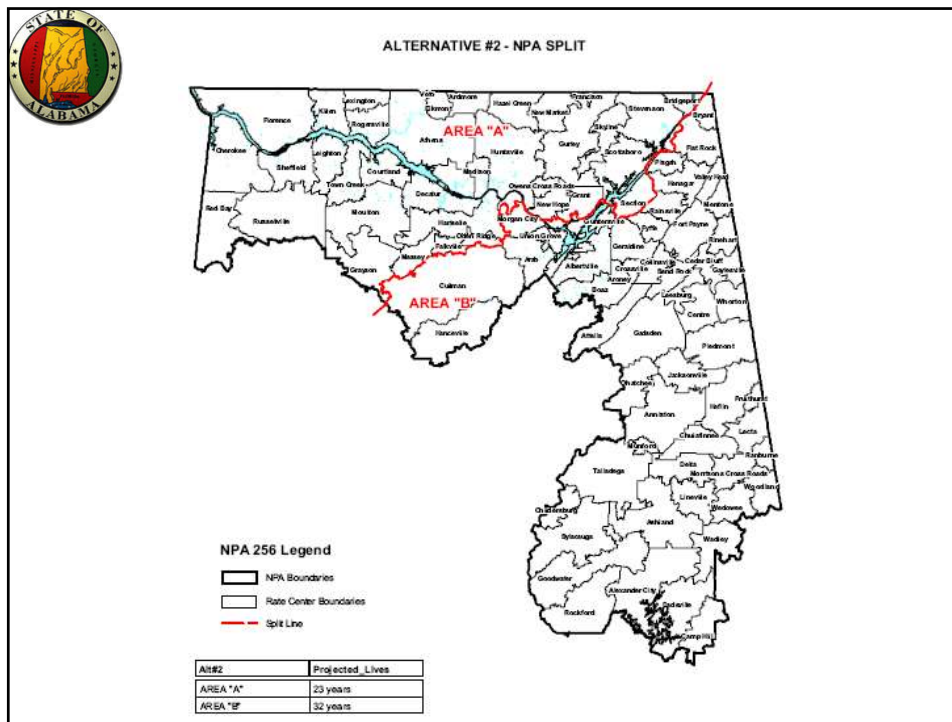
## **Area Code Relief Planning**

- **NeuStar conducted an area code relief planning meeting with the representatives of the Alabama telecommunications industry for purposes of developing a recommended 256 area code relief plan.**
- **The industry recommended relief plan was submitted to the Commission for a decision.**



## **Relief Alternatives Considered**

- **All Services Distributed Overlay (Alternative 1)**
  - **A new area code is implemented for 256 and future telephone number assignments can be from either 256 or the new area code throughout the existing 256 area.**
- **Geographic Split (Alternatives 2)**
  - **The existing 256 Numbering area is divided into separate zones with one of the new geographic areas created by the split assigned a new area code.**



<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Key Differences</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Geographic Split vs. Overlay</h3> </div> </div>		
Issue	Geographic Split	Overlay
Area Code Assignments	Maintains a single area code for each geographic area	Assigns two or more area codes within a single geographic area
Telephone Number (area code) Change	Requires an area code change for approximately one-half the customers in the existing area code	No customer is required to change their existing area code.
Local Calling	7-digit dialing for local calls is preserved	10-digit dialing (area code required) for local calls because more than one area code may exist in local calling area.
Consumer Expense	Stationary, bank checks, business cards, advertising must be changed to reflect new area code	No need to revise unless the materials previously reflected only 7-digit numbers.



## **Other States with Existing & Planned Area Code Overlays**

- California
  - 310 & 424, 714 & 677, 714 & 657, 378 & 747, 760 & 442, 818 & 747
- Connecticut
  - 203 & 475, 860 & 959
- Florida
  - 407 & 321, 954 & 754
- Georgia
  - 404 & 770 & 678, 706 & 762
- Illinois
  - 217 & 447, 618 & 730 630 & 331, 815 & 779, 847 & 224



## **Other States with Existing & Planned Area Code Overlays**

- Colorado
  - 303 & 720
- Massachusetts
  - 508 & 774, 617 & 857, 781 & 339, 978 & 351
- Maryland
  - 301 & 240, 410 & 443
- Michigan
  - 248 & 947
- Mississippi
  - 601 & 769
- New Jersey
  - 201 & 551, 732 & 848, 973 & 862



## **Other States with Existing & Planned Area Code Overlays**

- New York
  - 212 & 646 & 917, 718 & 347 & 917
- Ohio
  - 330 & 234, 419 & 567
- North Carolina
  - 704 & 980
- Oregon
  - 503 & 971, 541 & 458
- Pennsylvania
  - 215 & 267, 610 & 484, 412 & 878, 724 & 878
- Texas
  - 214 & 972 & 469, 713 & 281 & 832, 817 & 682, 903 & 430



## **Other States with Existing & Planned Area Code Overlays**

- Utah
  - 801 & 385
- Virginia
  - 703 & 571
- Wisconsin
  - 715 & 534, 920 & 274
- West Virginia
  - 304 & 681
- There are 10 area code overlays in Canada, 1 in Puerto Rico and 1 in the Dominican Republic.



## **Overlays are Applied to All Services Wired and Wireless**

- **This is a FCC requirement so that all telecommunications providers and technologies are treated alike.**
- **If the new area code only applied to some services (say to wireless services or new telecommunications providers), there would be a competitive disadvantage.**
- **The telephone numbering system is intended to be competitively and technology neutral.**



## **Impact of Overlays on Existing Local and Toll Service**

- **Calling areas and rates will not be impacted by an area code overlay.**
- **Calls that were considered local before the introduction of the new area code will remain local calls.**
- **Calls that were considered long distance before the new area code will remain long distance calls.**





## How the New Area Code Overlay is Implemented

- Three Phases
  - Permissive 10-digit dialing period
  - Mandatory 10-digit dialing period
  - Introduction of the New Code



## Permissive Dialing Period

- During a permissive 10-digit dialing period, customers are encouraged to begin using the area code and the 7 digit number to place all local calls within the area code, although these calls will still complete if caller dials only the 7-digit number.
- During this time, life safety systems, alarms, PBX's, fax machine calling lists, speed dialers, private entry access systems, auto-dialers and out-dialing lists on personal computers should be reprogrammed.



## **Mandatory Dialing Period**

- **Mandatory 10-digit dialing begins at the end of the formal permissive dialing period.**
- **Callers must use the area code and the 7 digit number for all local calls within the area code.**
- **Calls incorrectly dialed using only 7-digits will be referred to a recording which will inform the calling party that it is necessary to dial the area code and the 7-digit telephone number to complete the call.**



## **Introduction of the New Area Code**

- **Numbers in the new overlay area code are introduced shortly after mandatory 10-digit dialing begins.**